

APPROVED MAY 24, 2023

Sustainable Poolesville Committee Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

Poolesville Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Present: Don Street (Chair), Erika Reed, Joyce Breiner, Ed Reed, Krish Balla, Danny Embry (Vice Chair), Soledad Aguilar, Markus Rauschecker

Meeting called to order @ 7:05 pm

Announcements: Next meeting will be May 24, 2023

Previous meeting minutes: Minutes for the March 22, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

New business: None

Old Business:

Composting – Tabled to the May meeting as the invited representative from Key City Composting was a no-show; Joyce mentioned about the possibility of joining another municipality's composting contract. This would have to be something Wade or Niles would look into at some point.

Pollinator Meadow Project – Area looks good; There was some question about it needing watering, but according to Meagan Woodman (Jason's mom) there is no need for it at this time; The signage is very visible and will help delineate the boundaries of the planted area; Town park maintenance will eventually take over care; There may be other areas around town appropriate for future projects like this and we will keep these in mind going forward.

Sierra Club resolution – The resolution was passed by the Town Commissioners and a press release was sent out; Don attempted to contact Sierra Club reps for assistance on the press release but got no response.

Litter initiative (Pick It Up Poolesville) – Erika reported the project is doing well; The Budd Road cleanup was particularly successful as well as the one by PHS; Overall the response has been good and there are several event dates coming up in May and June; Information continues to be circulated via social media and the Town website.

Spring Fest – Things are set to go, and we have coordinated with Meagan Woodman so we will be next to Jason's booth as planned; There will be printed materials regarding recycling and the switch to the dual-stream system. We will be able to brag a bit about the Sustainable Poolesville Committee being responsible for this happening; Don will check on obtaining samples of the new recycling bins to show to the public;

Comprehensive Plan – Danny, Markus and Soledad have been continuing to refine our input to the Planning Board and draft language was circulated to members for review;

Danny stated they floated the idea of a separate sustainability element such as the one Middletown created being added to the draft Comprehensive Plan at the last Planning Board meeting and the response was favorable; There was a discussion as to whether the best course action would be to re-brand the Environmental Resources and Sensitive Areas section of the Plan as Sustainability, Environmental Resources, and Sensitive Areas with specific sustainability elements added to the section. All agreed this may be the best way to go.

Shredded rubber on playgrounds – Tabled to May meeting.

Other – Short discussion about the proposal before the Town Commissioners regard a co-op startup in town similar to the one in Lovettsville, VA; Also short discussion of how having sustainability in the Comprehensive Plan could help with Town's efforts to attract new businesses;

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm